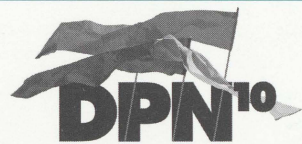




On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff
Gallaudet University • 800 Florida Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695

March 25, 1998

Vol. 28, No. 21



DPN 10 celebration highlights—what's happening this week!

25 Truth Be Told Panel: "International Impact of DPN," 4-6 p.m., GUKCC Auditorium

'Today, you are still my heroes,' Senator Harkin tells Gallaudet audience

In the heady days following the success of the Deaf President Now movement, Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) sent a letter to Gallaudet commending the protesters for achieving their goals. He concluded the letter by stating, "You are my heroes."

The momentum that DPN set into motion contributed to many breakthroughs in rights for deaf and disabled people. Some of the legislation that can directly be linked to DPN were the Americans with Disabilities Act, the TV Decoder Act, the Telecommunications Enhancement Act, and the Education of the Deaf Act—all of which Harkin was largely responsible for.

These achievements confirm Harkin's sentiments a decade later. "Today, you are still my heroes," he declared during a moving speech March 12 in the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center.

Harkin recalled observing the rally staged by protesters on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in 1988. "I swelled with pride to see my brothers and sisters demand their right to have a deaf president," he said, exclaiming, "What a great day it was!"

During DPN week, said Harkin, "the students of Gallaudet broke through the walls built around them. ... The students organized and protested for their right to have a president who could relate in a way no hearing person could." He added, "Don't let anyone tell you that what happened 10 years ago was insignificant. It was profoundly significant."


Harkin said he was personally aware of how DPN raised the world's awareness of Gallaudet and of the deaf community during a trip he and his family took to Europe in the summer of 1988. He told the story of approaching a busload of deaf students and

communicating with them in ASL. The students, said Harkin, wanted to know about the president. "I thought they were talking about [Ronald] Reagan, but they were talking about President Jordan. Dr. Jordan became their hero too, making it clear to me that not only Gallaudet got a deaf president but it was liberating for deaf people around the globe."

Harkin was one of the speakers at the March 11 re-creation of the rally at the Capitol and, again, he said it was a proud moment for him to reflect on the many changes in the lives of deaf people and people with disabilities that have transpired in a decade. The passage of the ADA, Harkin said, was particularly accelerated by DPN. The law, which he termed "the Emancipation Proclamation for all persons with disabilities ... was certainly pushed along by Gallaudet students. They may not know it, but believe me, it helped."

The spirit of DPN has not died, said Harkin, and its power can still be called upon as a catalyst for change. "Together, we must reach out to disabled people around the world so that they too can meet their potential. We should never forget that the door to opportunity should be left open for all."

In conclusion, Harkin issued a challenge to students "to continue to push, continue to break down barriers, and continue to move ahead. We are moving closer to a world where all have the opportunity to succeed."

After Harkin's talk, President Jordan, in reference to Harkin's comments that he learned sign language from his deaf brother, Frank, commented: "You don't have just one deaf brother. He's your deaf brother, she's your deaf sister," said Jordan, pointing again and again to members of the audience. 



Gallaudet's seventh president, Dr. Elisabeth Ann Zinser, returned to campus on March 10 for her first official visit since DPN. (Inset) Zinser shared some of her reflections about being in the "eye of the storm" during the protest and congratulated President Jordan and other campus leaders for their achievements on behalf of the University over the past decade. Zinser, who is currently chancellor of the University of Kentucky, was accompanied to campus by her husband, Don Mackin. Mackin, Linda Jordan, Zinser, and Dr. Jordan are pictured (from left).

DPN Revisited looks to the past, future of deaf people

By Katherine DeLorenzo
Wrapping up a week filled with activities was the long awaited "Deaf President Now Revisited," a two-day conference in the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center celebrating the 10th anniversary of DPN.

A wide range of topics provided conference attendees with the opportunity to discuss DPN's impact on deaf leadership, employment, legislation, and the performing arts.

The conference "really reinforces what we already want to do," said Dr. Gertrude Galloway, superintendent of the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf in New Jersey. Nancy Bloch, executive director of the National Association of the Deaf, agreed. "We see the word 'politics' as negative," she said. "But politics is not a dirty word. It's how things get done."

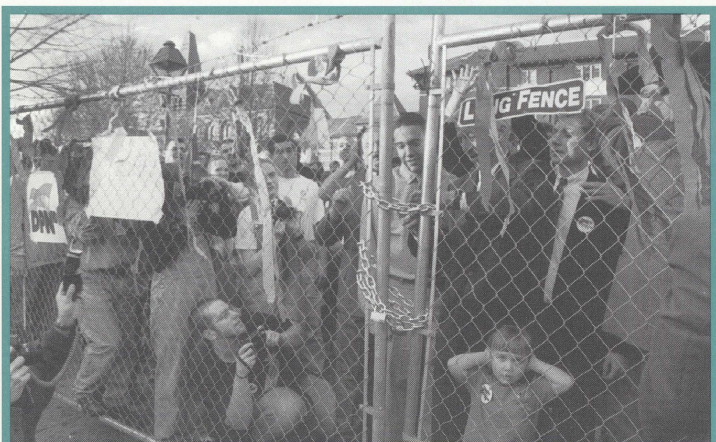
Presentations included "Putting DPN in a Historical Perspective," "DPN and Invitational Leadership," "Art and Attitudes," and "Sociopolitical Activism: Past, Present,

and Future." The event included a keynote speech by Senator Tom Harkin (see story, page 1).

The changing climate of deaf culture and activism since DPN is clearly different, said Dr. Allen Sussman, a professor in Gallaudet's Counseling Department who served on a panel with a number of prominent deaf advocates chronicling the sociopolitical activist history of deaf people. "There's a different breed of deaf people today," said Sussman, one with more resources to deal with oppression and discrimination.

Paramount to this success is the belief that deaf people must support each other, said Mathematics Professor Harvey Goodstein. He recalled a senior trip he took with a group that included Albert Couthen, now president of the National Black Deaf Advocates and an assistant principal at the Columbia campus of the Maryland School for the Deaf. The group was denied admittance to a restaurant because of Couthen's

continued on page 4



Students gather around Student Body Government President David Kurs (center) and 1988 SBG President and Deaf President Now student leader Greg Hlibok as they prepare to lock together gates set up at Gallaudet's Florida Avenue entrance. The March 9 event was a symbolic reenactment of the closing down of campus by students in early March of 1988.

GCRC hosts 19th Annual Awards and Recognition Program

The Gallaudet Community Relations Council will host its 19th Annual Awards and Recognition Program at the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center on April 11 at 6 p.m.

This year's theme is "Planning for the Present with a Focus on the Future." The purpose of the program is to award and recognize those individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to improve the quality of life for residents of the Near Northeast community as well as to strengthen the relationship between Gallaudet University and the community.

The mistress of ceremonies for the program will be Dr. Jane Norman,

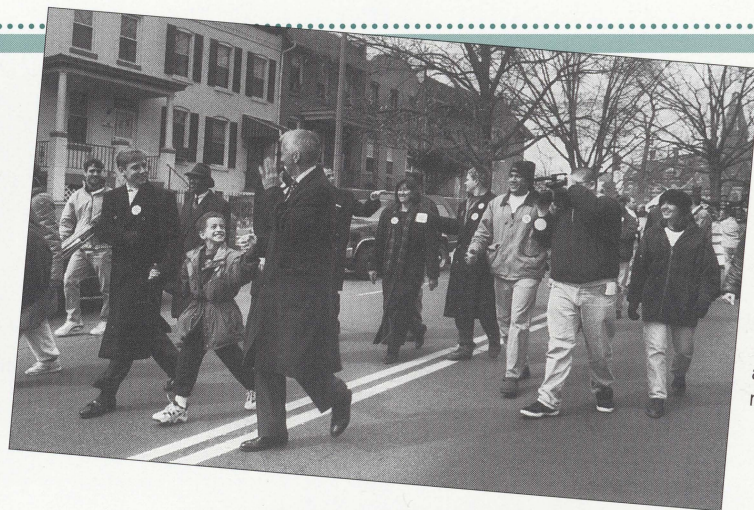
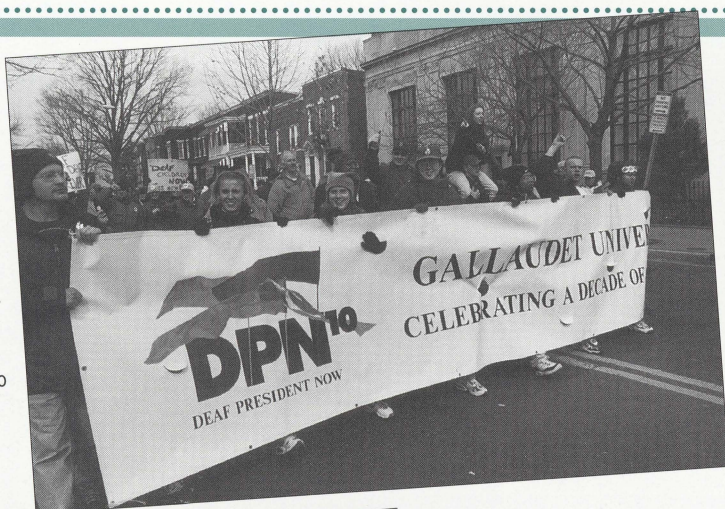
chair of the Department of Television, Photography, and Educational Technology in the School of Communication. The guest speaker will be George Curry, editor-in-chief of *Emergence: Black America's Newsmagazine*, a Black Entertainment Television publication.

There will be entertainment and a full buffet reception following the program. Tickets, which are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, can be purchased in advance from the Office for Diversity and Community Relations, College Hall, Room 215.

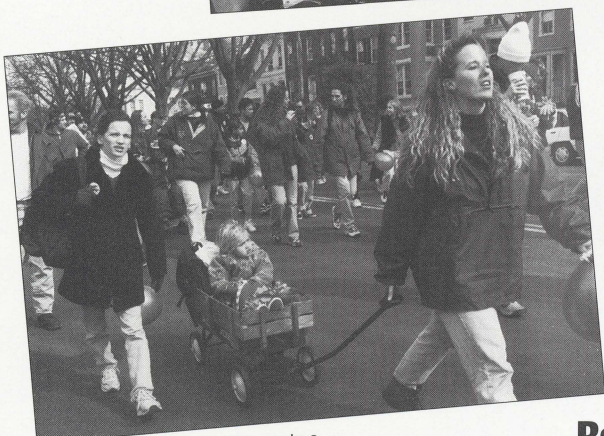
For more information, call Julia Bishop-Pitt or Vanessa Slade-Bratcher at x5660.



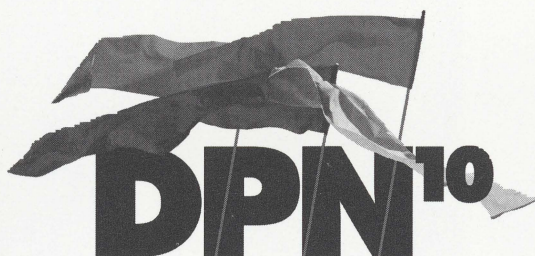
A group of enthusiastic marchers carries the DPN 10 banner on its two-mile trek to the U.S. Capitol.



Heading the procession down Eighth Street are Greg Hlibok, President Jordan, and a young marcher.



Stacey Pederson's daughter gets a wagon ride to the Capitol.



Ten years after DPN, the Civil Rights banner "We Still Have A Dream" continues to inspire hope for the future.

Rally and march recall historic moment

By Katherine DeLorenzo
Ten years ago, thousands of protesters poured onto the Capitol grounds for a day of speeches, lobbying, and demonstrations in support of a deaf University president. On March 11, 1998, a new group of students traveled the historic route in celebration of the Deaf President Now march.

"It's wonderful," President I. King Jordan said as approximately 2,500 marchers filled the Field House for a pre-march rally. "I am very impressed with the number of people who came. The spirit, community, and unity of the celebration is a reminder of the one we had 10 years ago."

If the rally and march served as a reminder of Deaf President Now, it also recalled the need for a continued activism that many call "Deaf People Now." New concerns about the funding of deaf education and captioning were on the minds of many. Along with students from many state schools was a group from the Nebraska School for the Deaf, scheduled to close this summer.

"If the Nebraska School for the Deaf closes, other schools in other states will follow," warned Linsay Darnall, Jr., a Nebraska graduate

who chaired the SBG-hosted event, which included ASL poetry signed by Gallaudet students.

Winding their way down the two-mile route behind a Civil Rights banner proclaiming "We Still Have A Dream," the marchers—including many alumni, staff, and their family members—braved the freezing cold all the way to the Capitol's west entrance, where the red, green, gold, and blue flags of DPN were once again in prominent view. Several children, many of whom had not been born when DPN happened, took turns as flagbearers, a reminder of DPN's legacy. Many marchers carried signs with their organizations, schools, or states listed.

"Today the air is cold, but there is warm spirit here," said Greg Hlibok, one of the four student leaders who led the 1988 protest. His appearance drew waving applause from the mostly-student crowd. "We, the deaf community, have power—you know that. You have power. I want to see you rise up."

While championing the progress of the last 10 years, many at the Capitol were also there to protest recent cuts in funding for deaf residential

school programs and a Department of Education initiative calling for reduced closed-caption funding. "You have a good life," said student leader Tim Rarus. "You can make it even better."

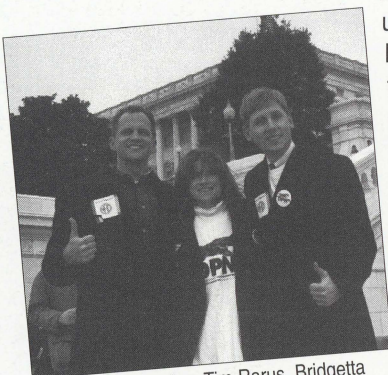
Those making addresses at the Capitol rally included a number of prominent politicians, among them Senators Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and John McCain (R-Ariz.). McCain, who is also a congressional trustee, drew cheers when he called Jordan "a wonderful president" and praised Gallaudet.

"Never give up," said Harkin, who signed the beginning of his speech, "America needs you." Also speaking were disability activist Justin Dart; National Association of the Deaf Executive Director Nancy Bloch; Gallaudet's other congressional trustees, Reps. Ray LaHood (R-Ill.) and David Bonior (D-Mich); and Maryland congressional representatives Steny Hoyer (D) and Connie Morella (R). 

Thousands of marchers brave the blustery cold to listen to speeches and ASL poetry at the Capitol steps. The flags of DPN can be seen in the background.



Kappa Gamma fraternity brothers pose with President Jordan and the flags they made for DPN 10. Left to right: Stu Ikeda, Jim Adams, Dr. Jordan, Paul Stone, and Karl Ewan.



DPN student leaders Tim Rarus, Bridgetta Bourne-Firl, and Greg Hlibok give the rally a "thumbs up."



Representative Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) and President Jordan celebrate at the Capitol during the March 11 march and rally.



Disability activist Justin Dart, president of Justice for All, signs "I-L-Y" to rally participants.




 ON THE GREEN

Kendall Green
Gallaudet University
800 Florida Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002-3695

Published weekly for the staff and faculty of Gallaudet University by the Office of Public Relations.

Editor
Todd Byrd
Photo Editor
Sherry Duhon
Staff Writer
Katherine DeLorenzo
Photography
Chun Louie
Design/Production
Publications and Production

 Gallaudet University is an equal opportunity employer/educational institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, hearing status, disability, covered veteran status, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, source of income, place of business or residence, pregnancy, childbirth, or any other unlawful basis.

PCNMP HAPPENINGS

National Forum on Family Involvement brings parents and professionals together

Representatives from eight programs that work with families of deaf and hard of hearing children gathered at the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center March 1-4 for Pre-College National Mission Programs' National Forum on Family Involvement.

The parents and educators from the programs identified strategies they have found effective for involving families with schools—especially families from rural areas, who are minorities or non-English

with information from earlier activities, such as the National Dialogue on Family Involvement, which occurred last November. The goal is to identify promising practices in the area of family involvement.

The National Forum on Family Involvement evolved from PCNMP's priority areas of literacy, family involvement, and transition. In 1994, the Pre-College National Mission Advisory Panel (NMAP) identified the three broad priority areas.

PCNMP is gathering evidence of successful best practices in those priority areas, using public input from many sources, such as parents and professionals in a variety of settings. In addition to defining the critical needs through this process, PCNMP will use the information to set a national agenda for research, development, and dissemination priorities. To assess the critical needs in the area

of family involvement PCNMP gathered public input in several ways:

"700 Contacts List"—In 1995, PCNMP compiled a list of approximately 700 individuals who could provide useful information about any of the three priorities. Telephone interviews were conducted with selected individuals from the list.

Concepts and Premises Paper—In the fall of 1996, PCNMP enlisted Gallaudet Department of Education Chair Barbara Bodner-Johnson and Dr. Marilyn Sass-Lehrer, a professor in the Department of Education, to write a paper

called "Concepts and Premises in Family-School Relationships." This paper was sent to parents, teachers, counselors, researchers, administrators, and others in PCNMP's constituency groups for their feedback. During this phase, the very broad concept of family involvement was narrowed to issues related to home/school relations.

National Dialogue on Family Involvement—In November 1996, PCNMP invited individuals from a variety of educational programs, parents, deaf and hard of hearing adults, researchers, supervisors, counselors, and others to meet and identify critical needs and to provide feedback on the concepts and premises paper. In addition, PCNMP analyzed information from interviews with schools and programs, questionnaires, and questions that are frequently asked of PCNMP.

All of this information was synthesized into a list of critical needs in the area of family involvement. Eight areas of greatest need were identified. Three areas were chosen for further study in the next phase of the process, Requests for Collaboration (RFC).

The first RFC focuses on how families in the target populations make decisions. PCNMP is also identifying which schools and programs already address some of the critical needs, particularly schools and programs that used the priorities and needs of the families to design their family education programs (RFC 2) and programs that provided the parent with skills that enabled the deaf or hard of hearing child to be a full participant in the family (RFC 3).

Fifteen programs applied to participate in a National Forum on Family Involvement where they would share ideas about these topics. Outside experts (teachers, researchers, and parents) reviewed the applications and

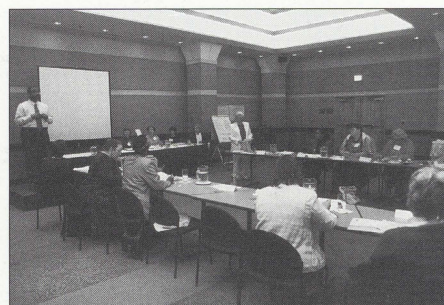
eight programs were selected to participate in the Forum on Family Involvement.

Using the information provided to the forum participants, as well as the information described above, PCNMP will identify several strategies that have promise for strengthening the relationship between schools and programs with families from the target population. Additional strategies will have promise for enabling deaf or hard of hearing children to be full participants in families. PCNMP will then collaborate with forum participants who may be interested in evaluating these strategies. It expects to expand that collaboration to other programs, thus evaluating promising strategies in a variety of settings.

All of the people and programs who participate in these collaborations become "Partners in Progress." This is the name PCNMP has given to the process of developing collaborations with educators, researchers, parents, and administrators involved in the education of deaf and hard of hearing students.

When the evaluation of the family involvement strategies is completed, PCNMP will have evidence of which strategies are effective and which are not. PCNMP will be able to describe the settings in which each strategy was evaluated, and the kinds of adaptations that programs made as they implemented the strategy. This information will be disseminated widely.

"We expect that the focus on the priority areas will assist students in becoming happy, healthy, contributing members of society," said Dr. Margaret Hallau, director of PCNMP's Exemplary Programs and Research. "By working collaboratively with schools and programs across, we move this dream closer to reality." G



Participants are shown at a PCNMP Forum on Family Involvement activity.



Dr. Kay Meadow-Orlans, Dr. Marilyn Sass-Lehrer, and Dr. Barbara Bodner-Johnson at the Family Forum.

speaking, have deaf or hard of hearing children who are lower achieving academically, or have secondary disabilities.

The forum included a panel of researchers who discussed the developmental needs of deaf and hard of hearing children and their families. One of the most moving experiences for many participants was listening to a panel of deaf adults who described personal experiences of when they did and did not feel like a full participant in their family. PCNMP will analyze the discussions that occurred during the forum and synthesize it

Family and Consumer Studies celebrates 70 years

It used to be that the study of living skills like parenting, cooking, and clothing was called Home Economics and it was the sole domain of women.

But times have changed.

Ingredients for today's family are not necessarily husband, wife, and offspring. Today, two college roommates could be considered a family unit. Food and wearing apparel have broken out of the four residential walls and become major industries. And many men—whether in a single or divorced lifestyle or following a career path in food service, the garment industry, or child care—have caused Home Ec to cross gender lines.

Almost since its inception as a certified profession 90 years ago, Gallaudet has been involved in preparing its students in the Home Economics field. In 1910, Gallaudet offered an elective called Domestic Economics "for the ladies of the college." As the course grew in popularity, others supplemented it: Right Living in 1912, Domestic Art—a course in sewing and dress-

making—in 1915, and Interior Decoration, Costume Designing, Dressmaking, Millinery, and Domestic Science (foods) in 1921. The popularity of these courses set the stage for the establishment of the Home Economics Department in 1928.

Today, male and female students crowd into the laboratory-size kitchens in Washburn Arts Building for international cooking classes and courses dedicated to the evils of junk food. And while the term Home Economics has lost favor (the title of the national organization is called the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences), the essence of the field—at Gallaudet and elsewhere—has remained as essential to our lives as it ever was.

To celebrate its first 70 years, Gallaudet's department, known since 1993 as Family and Consumer Studies, will hold a celebration April 1 and 2 to let the campus know about its programs of yesterday and today.

The celebration, said Family

and Consumer Studies Chair Kaye Oman, will provide a golden opportunity to make the campus aware of the rich history of the department and how it has evolved. Open houses have been scheduled from 3-5 p.m. both days. Classrooms will be open for visitors to observe; information will be available on what Gallaudet students who are majoring in the field are doing with the expertise they have gained; and there will be a display showing what alumni since 1950 have done with their degrees. Of course, refreshments will be served.

Dr. Oman said that the alumni survey, which was completed by more than 200 alumni, reflects the changes that the home economics field has taken over the years. In the early days, "Many of the graduates used their skills for being housewives, but most who got degrees went to teach at state schools for the deaf," said Oman.

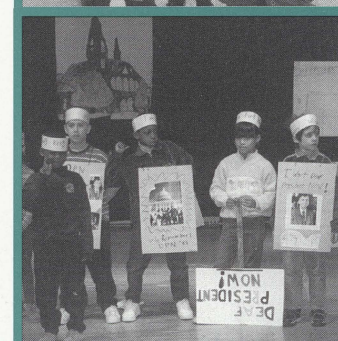
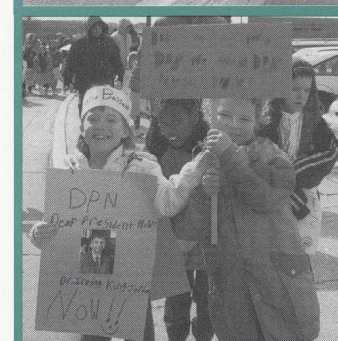
By the 1970s, the profession branched out. Today, there are 25 majors in Family and Consumer

Studies—one of the largest departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. Majors are offered in three areas: child development—the largest—apparel, and food. And beginning with the 1998-99 academic year, minors are planned for child development, fabric arts, family studies, and nutrition.

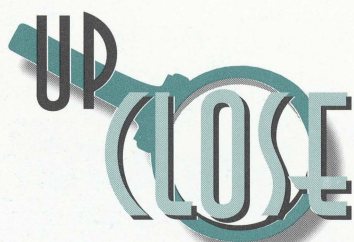
The courses are taught by Oman, Dr. Julia Bertak, Dr. Deborah Krichbaum, and Samuel Weber.

Probably as many as half of the students in most of the classes offered by the department are taking them as electives. For example, many education majors take parenting and creative activities classes, said Oman, and students of all majors are drawn to cooking classes with alluring names like "Cultural Foods," "Junk Foods," and "Gourmet Foods." "We eat in those classes," Oman explained. "The smells that come wafting through the building! We have people with their noses pressed against the door!"

But Oman pointed out that it is often the students who take electives who become interested in Family and Consumer Studies and declare it as their major. G



Top: KDES students in Grades K-8 held a march on campus March 11 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of DPN. Center: The students created picket signs and headbands to learn about and celebrate the protest and its key players. Bottom: KDES students perform in skits inspired by the Deaf President Now protest.



By Mike Kaika



Bobette G. Brown

Bobette Brown—former paratrooper

When she graduated from high school, Bobette Brown went on to college, but when her scholarship wasn't renewed she couldn't afford to stay and left to join the Army.

She joined the Army in the spring of 1983 and after she completed basic training at Fort Benning in Atlanta, Ga., she was stationed in Germany for two years. "I was a petroleum supply specialist responsible for procuring petroleum products for the military vehicles," Bobette explained.

After her two-year tour in Germany, Bobette was transferred back to the States. She changed her career field to financial specialist and was stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, her home state. "I was with the 82nd Airborne, and although I was a financial special-

ist, I was also a paratrooper," said Bobette.

Bobette actually made her first jump after airborne training in the summer of 1983, but when she came back to the States she was required to make at least one jump every three months. By the time she left the service in 1988 with the rank of staff sergeant (E-6) she had made about 16 jumps.

"The first jump was the hardest," said Bobette. "Looking at the ground from an airplane and knowing you are going to be pushed out that door any minute was frightening to say the least," she added. "But once the chute opened, it was an exhilarating feeling."

After Bobette left the Army, she met Cedric, married him, and they moved to Maryland. Bobette and her husband, along with their two

young boys, now live in Bowie. She started working at Gallaudet in 1994 as a secretary with the Department of ASL, Linguistics, and Interpreting. In January 1995, she accepted the position of secretary/interpreter in the Office of Public Relations and Visitors Center. Recently, she was promoted to administrative secretary II.

"My younger brother is deaf, and when I was growing up, I used sign language to communicate with him," said Bobette. Her sign language skills have blossomed since she came to Gallaudet, especially since she started working in the Public Relations and Visitors Center. There are times when Bobette has to accompany the Visitors Center tour guides to interpret. She is also the interpreter for the deaf members of the office.

Bobette is very active with her church, the Greater Mount Calvary

Holy Church on Rhode Island Avenue near Gallaudet. "When we first joined this church, I saw a deaf person there without an interpreter," said Bobette. Soon after, she volunteered to interpret for the deaf person and gradually, more and more deaf people started to attend the church. "We now have about 30 deaf members and quite a few are from the Gallaudet community," said Bobette. She also teaches Sunday school and every Thursday she conducts a Bible study class.

Bobette is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in business management at the University of Maryland-College Park and expects to graduate in May 1999.

Will she celebrate her graduation by parachuting one more time? "No, that's all behind me now," said Bobette. She added, "now my greatest passion is spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Teleconference explores post-DPN world of deaf people

By Katherine DeLorenzo
Empowerment, advocacy, and vocation were the themes of "DPN: The Pulse of the People," a March 13 teleconference. Over 200 sites across the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean tuned in for a fresh look at DPN's impact 10 years later. Hosting the teleconference's live portions was moderator Dwight Benedict, director of Gallaudet's Office of Campus Life.

Geared primarily toward young deaf students, "Pulse of the People" explored the post-DPN world of deaf people through a series of interactive panels, film clips, and interviews and discussions with prominent journalists, politicians, deaf professionals and entrepreneurs, and Gallaudet students.

DPN was clearly an international event, said President I. King Jordan in the program's opening interview. "When it happened, people all over the world were proud to be deaf."

DPN's repercussions have been felt far beyond the gates of Gallaudet. "DPN was a model for my own empowerment," said two-time Peabody award winner and "Dateline NBC" correspondent John Hockenberry. Hockenberry, along with former Congressman Steve Gunderson, who serves on Gallaudet's Board of Associates, and Kentucky Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Director Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins, were on hand to discuss the social and political impact of DPN.

The "cultural dimensions of deafness" are often overlooked, dominated by medical and pathological views about hearing loss, said Hockenberry. By putting a face on the deaf community, DPN changed this view for many people. "When those stories get out, the deaf take on a totally different position in society," he said. "Because of DPN, the very equation of deaf participation in society has changed."

The author of *Moving Violations: War Zones, Wheelchairs, and Declarations of Independence*, Hockenberry sees parallels between

the disability rights movement and deaf empowerment, one exemplified by DPN's influence on the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Such parallels are important, regardless of the cultural position taken by many deaf people, who do not consider themselves disabled. "Whether you want us or not, we're a part of this too," he said bluntly.

Like Hockenberry, Scoggins sees a continued partnership between deaf advocacy and ADA. Such legislation cannot survive without the continued participation of deaf people in the political process. "It is up to us to enforce it through our advocacy efforts," she said.

When asked about the truth of the oft-repeated slogan "Deaf people can do anything except hear," the panelists had some surprising comments. "We're deaf, but we're individuals before anything else," said Scoggins. Hockenberry agreed. "We need to have sufficient self-esteem to understand that some people just need a place."

For young deaf people, there are more opportunities available to them today, particularly in business fields. "Deaf people today are becoming more savvy about their economic power and more willing to use that power," said Khadijat Rashid, an assistant professor in Gallaudet's Department of Business Administration and a Gallaudet graduate. "They are willing to go into the mainstream looking for jobs."

Michelle Banks is certainly one of these people. When she graduated from the State University of New York with a degree in drama studies, she was faced with the narrow range of options offered to black actors, especially black deaf actors. Banks chose to create her own opportunities, founding New York's Onyx Theatre Company.

So did Jim Macfadden, who founded Macfadden and Associates, a computer systems company and a graduate of Gallaudet. Banks and Macfadden, along with alumnus Fred Weiner, who coordinates AT&T's Learning Points system and

infrastructure program, offered their perspectives on what young deaf people in a post-DPN economy can do for themselves.

Macfadden started his business in 1986 at a time when interpreters were scarce and technology limited. DPN created an awareness about deaf people that proved beneficial.

But not everything has changed for the better. "I would argue that what we have is called a 'sound barrier,'" said Weiner. This doesn't mean that opportunities are limited, he emphasized, only that deaf people must work harder to publicize themselves. Weiner sees role models such as Banks and Macfadden an important part of progress. "The key is to make sure we have these role models in the public eye," he said.

The final portion of the teleconference gave student panelists Scott Mohan, Jolene Ayres, and Michelle Lennert a chance to formulate their own vision of DPN's promise and some of the problems still facing them and other deaf graduates.

"DPN opened the door. Now that we've got our foot in the door, we need to open it more completely," said Ayres.

'DPN Revisited'

continued from page 1
race. "He said, 'You go ahead,'" remembered Dr. Goodstein. "But we said 'No. We can go someplace else.'" It is this everyday activism that underlies the deaf community's success in breaking down barriers, the panelists asserted.

Not all panelists felt that DPN had a major impact on their lives. Actors Phyllis Frelich and Robert Daniels from Deaf West Theatre notice a discouraging lack of progress in performing arts for deaf people. Daniels sees part of this problem rooted in the deaf community itself, where people are reluctant to push themselves and others to become better.

Frelich attributes nearly all the progress made in the arts to Mark Medoff's award-winning play, *Children of a Lesser God*. Recalling how the play's publicists refused to put

ly," said Ayres, a freshman chemistry major from Trinidad who now makes her home in Delaware. She pointed to recent initiatives to cut closed-captioned television programming as an example of such half-opened doors.

Mohan, who is majoring in elementary education, feels that a major closed door for deaf students remains the lack of quality education. A student teacher at Sidwell Friends, Mohan sees first-hand the educational disparities. "I see deaf students not learning the same things until much later," he said. Contributing to this problem are the number of educators in deaf schools teaching out of their content field, Mohan believes.

Another factor for success is ASL literacy, the students said. "We would like to see students competent in both ASL and written English," said Lennert, an ASL studies major from Washington State.

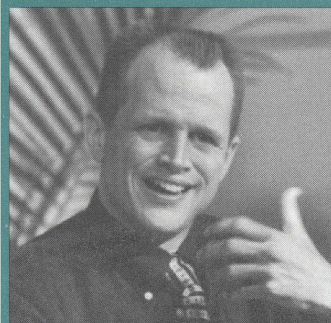
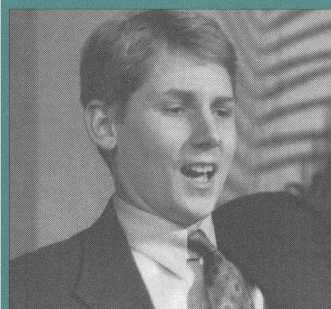
All agree, however, that DPN is a watershed event. "My parents told me about all the things they didn't have," said Mohan, discussing technology, captioning, and other advances in accessibility. "Without DPN, I do not think those things would have been possible."

the word "deaf" in any of its advertising, Frelich believes that it was the play and its film adaptation that brought attention to deaf actors, and possibly made the protest itself more effective.

Closing remarks were made by Gallaudet Board of Trustees member Philip Bravin, who played a prominent role in DPN and became the first deaf chair of the University's board. Bravin emphasized that the successes of DPN must be protected with continued vigilance.

DPN is an event that has grown larger than the 99-acre campus where it was born. This scope extends to a continued press for more deaf leadership, an emphasis on quality education for deaf children, and a need to ensure that deaf portrayals in media and film are realistic. "We have to do our share of planning for our future," said Bravin.

DPN¹⁰ The Student Leaders!



Top to bottom: DPN student leaders Greg Hlibok, Bridgetta Bourne-Firl, and Tim Rarus recall the DPN movement and their impressions on the impact of the historic event at a March 10 "Truth be Told" panel moderated by Dwight Benedict. (Not pictured is the fourth DPN student leader, Jerry Covell, who sent a videotape of his reflections on DPN.)